May 13, 2010

ADDRESS

Dear Governor Culver:

As the State Board of Education, we appreciate the high priority you have placed on education in Iowa. You have done this through polices such as Senior Year Plus and Early Childhood Education, and by advocating for increased funding for education, even in these tough economic times. You have also demonstrated this commitment by appointing excellent leadership for the Department of Education. Judy Jeffrey has been an outstanding Director, creating a vision for the future that encompasses the entire system of education. With Judy's retirement, we are hoping that you are able to find another strong individual to head the Department.

We'd like to take this opportunity to describe some of the characteristics we believe are essential for continuing to carry out your leadership agenda. We believe that the person who heads the Department must be an educator who is well-respected in the field. It would be helpful to have an lowa educator who understands the culture of lowa, and has a vision for improving education in the state, while building on lowa's strengths. With the changes in education that will be needed as we move into the 21st century, this person must be a good communicator and strong leader, preferably with administrative experience in a school setting at a central office level or as a superintendent. Because of increased participation in education at the national level, we need someone who has a deep understanding of the complexities of federal law and regulations and how they interrelate with state policies. Finally, because this is lowa, we need a collaborator – someone who can provide direction, but uses collaboration to make things happen.

We appreciate your appointment of Kevin Fangman as Acting Director. He is very capable and will continue to move Iowa's education system forward for as long as needed.

We believe this is a very important appointment and deserves a thorough search and thoughtful selection. If there is any way we can assist as you conduct your search and make your selection of a new Director for the Department of Education, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

Rosie Hussey President, Iowa State Board of Education

Cc: Lt. Governor Patty Judge